



Solution Spotlight

Implementation: Government Contracting

Withholding Functionality in PeopleSoft: Projects, Contracts, and Billing

Client Background:

Dynamics Research Corporation (DRC) is a government contractor and needs to have a system that complies with government regulations. The delivered functionality in PeopleSoft Billing, Contracts and Project modules did not satisfy the government requirements for Retainage/Withholding. The government may require vendors to retain or withhold a certain amount on their invoices. DRC wanted to be able to enter these withholding amounts on contracts and have the pricing engine automatically handle all calculations. Because of the limitations in PeopleSoft, DRC stored a significant number of bills in external spreadsheets rather than in PeopleSoft.

The Challenge

The solution had to comply with government requirements, so the end result of the solution was already known. The challenge was in how to incorporate the requirements into PeopleSoft delivered functionality and this solution was completely designed by BTRG. DRC also had a heavily customized pricing engine that had little documentation. The first challenge was to discover the current functionality of the custom pricing engine, then incorporate sophisticated withholding and limits to withholding logic.

DRC wanted this enhancement to allow the pricing engine to calculate withholding based on percentage of the amount billed (a withholding threshold), allow for a limit on the total withholding amount and to have functionality to release withholding amounts.

There are several considerations for doing this type of processing, manual releases have to be considered before another processing is done, then if there is a funding change for the project there might be dynamic releases of withheld amounts because the threshold for withhold can increase when funding increases. Also the amount to withhold is based on a billing rate template, so the amounts to be considered have to use this template for the calculations. After withholding is calculated, a limit for withholding, stored in a new online page needs to be checked to make sure the withholding amount calculated does not exceed this limit amount.



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The BTRG Solution

BTRG took a very structured approach to designing and coding this solution. We first documented the current functionality of the custom pricing engine then created a pseudo-code walkthrough of the new functionality, followed by a detailed data flow diagram, before any coding began.

BTRG used a mainly SQL approach, allowing for more PeopleSoft independence. Even though the solution was coded in PeopleSoft's Application Engine, it used no PeopleCode and was designed solely based on standard SQL, that way the functionality could more easily be ported to other software packages. This type of solution also allowed for easier debugging. This functionality was very complex so a conscious effort was made to write the code in the most readable way. This also allowed for easier production support. Every application engine step was documented. Also, a complete Visio diagram was created which shows the dataflow of every step in the process. BTRG also leveraged some of the delivered PeopleSoft functionality for calculating amounts based on a billing rate template.

Results

This project was completed in 4 months. This included design, development and more than 2 months of unit, system and integration testing.

Initially, two functional resources were used to design the withholding solution along with funding limit changes that were also implemented. Later, one functional resource remained while a technical resource was added to complete the coding and unit testing of the solution.

Having the system automatically calculate withholding allowed DRC to free up staff to work on other aspects of contracts and perform more analysis. It also meant that DRC would be in compliance with government regulations which would ensure continued business with government agencies. This also reduced the time and effort resources needed to spend working on withholding bills.

The end result for DRC was that they come into compliance with government standards, reduced effort in calculating and storing retainages, and increased controls and data accuracy by moving retainage and bills stored externally in spreadsheets into their centralized PeopleSoft system.



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About BTRG

The Business & Technology Resource Group (BTRG) is dedicated to helping organizations bridge business and technology. As one of the first consulting groups to specialize in ERP implementations; we understand that it can be difficult for IT to respond to emerging strategic direction in both a timely and a cost-effective manner. As today's CIO struggles to meet the shifting demands of their business - BTRG remains a capable, affordable, and strategic resource - close at hand to help organization's bridge the gap between business and technology.

A privately owned corporation in the United States and Canada; BTRG has a stable management team and an aggressive market position in the Oracle PeopleSoft consulting space. Founded in 1986, we started with beta versions of PeopleSoft GL and AP modules in 1993 - becoming one of the first PeopleSoft Partners to specialize in the implementation of the Financials Suite. Our early commitment to PeopleSoft applications and technologies positions us as a leader in providing highly effective, multi-discipline consultants at competitive rates. Today, BTRG continues to offer full service PeopleSoft project consulting and staff augmentation across many product lines. Throughout the years we have cultivated niche expertise in key industries, including **Financial Services, Insurance, Aerospace & Defense, and Healthcare.** Our clients include:



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